Viktor Krivulin

Translated from Russian 🇷🇺

While we Invented Paradise

«While we constructed the West
in the forty Soviet languages,
just like some sort of paradise in our ashen hands,
or like Canaan, unoccupied and promised
to ourselves — we saw the punishment of Egypt
but lived much safer than Oblomov:
we would come down, the way the Holy Spirit did,
to a sofa, holding an émigré journal
and facing a portrait of Nabokov in the purple frame...

Meanwhile, the Lord called on our beggarly abodes
And summoned us to our real homelands,
to Europe, or to India, sometimes to Palestine,
the hub of the Universe
where we are always missing...»

Www.Etoile.App
By Laurent Guidali